

Life Group Guide Jud 17:1–18:31 “Commitment or Compromise”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Sep 10 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Sep 17

Icebreaker Question

Apart from waiting for Christmas, what was your most anticipated annual event as a kid?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. Compromise attempts to redefine the one true God (17:1–6).**
 - a. Worship is compromised when the one true God is redefined.
 - b. Four Ways to Prepare for True Worship
 - i. True worship requires personal preparation (John 4:24).
 - ii. True worship requires pre-arrival preparation.
 - iii. True worship requires pre-service preparation (Heb. 10:24-25).
 - iv. True worship requires a post-service continuation.
- II. Compromise results in the acceptance of idols (17:5-13).**
 - a. The acceptance of idols result in religious and moral confusion.
 - b. Consequences of serving false gods.
 - i. The superficial idols sought after by this world will never satisfy.
 - ii. Idols control us since we feel like we must have them, or life is meaningless.
 - iii. Some of the most painful times in life are directly or indirectly the result of our idols being threatened or removed.
- III. Compromise results in the fear of losing God (18:1-31).**
 - a. When you attempt to reduce the One true God down to a size that you can manage or control you will always live in fear of losing Him.
 - b. A Reminder and a Remedy
 - i. A Reminder – The enemy hates you.
 - ii. A Remedy
 - 1. Admit you can’t do everything on your own.
 - 2. Remove yourself from harmful influences.
 - 3. Get involved in a local church AND a small group (Heb. 10:24-25).
 - 4. Read your Bible.
 - 5. Make prayer a priority.

Jud 17:1–13

Read Jud 17:1–13 Observation

1. In 17:1, where was this man from?
2. In 17:2–3, what did he take from his mother? What did she want him to make with it?
3. In 17:4, what did the refiner make from the silver? Where was it put?
4. In 17:5, what else did Micah make for himself? What duty did he give to his son?
5. In 17:6, what was Israel lacking in those days? What did each man do?
6. In 17:7–8, where was this next man from? What job did he have? Where did he travel?
7. In 17:9–11, where did the Levite plan to stay? What did Micah want? What happened?
8. In 17:12–13, what did Micah do next? Why did Micah think God was blessing his plan?

Interpretation

9. Why do people naturally want to make God into our own image? Does our own idolatry only affect us, or does it reach out to hurt others, especially family and friends? Why is idolatry so tempting? How can idolatry show up in our “good” religious moments?

Application

10. Would you prayerfully ask God to reveal idols in your daily life? How might you use this text to help a fellow church member struggling with idols? Would you willingly let a fellow church member counsel you about a possible idol in your life? What would be hard about that?

Life Group Guide Jud 17:1–18:31 “Commitment or Compromise”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Sep 10 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Sep 17

Jud 18:1–21

Read Jud 18:1–21: Observation

11. In 18:1, what was Israel lacking in those days? What was the tribe of Dan seeking?
12. In 18:2–4, what did the tribe of Dan want from its 5 valiant warriors? Where did they stay? What did they recognize about the Levite? What was the Levite’s reason to serve Micah?
13. In 18:5–6, what did the Danites ask of Micah’s Levite? What was his response?
14. In 18:7, what did the Danites find?
15. In 18:8–10, what did the 5 Danites tell their brothers?
16. In 18:11–14, how many Danites set out? Where did they end up? What did the 5 Danites tell their brothers?
17. In 18:15–17, what did the 600 Danites (under the leadership of the 5) take from Micah?
18. In 18:18–21, what did they tell Micah’s Levite? How did he respond?

Interpretation

19. Why might our strength, power, or accomplishment be the source of idolatry? What extra temptation shows up when we are good at something rather than in our areas of weaknesses? Is it better to be strong or weak? What makes our lives better in the end?
20. What is good about God bringing consequences on His people? What is God hoping to accomplish when He gives us consequences for our sins or other people’s sins? Will we always know why bad things are happening to us? What can and should we know in bad times?

Application

21. Are there parts of your life where you have understood God’s presence as a bad thing? Maybe you have tried to hide things from Him? Maybe you see Him as trying to bring bad things upon you or “get” you the moment you fail? How might you turn from those thoughts and feelings to a more biblical pattern? How might you turn to your church family to help you with these moments?

Jud 18:22–31

Read Jud 18:22–31: Observation

22. In 18:22–26, who caught up with them? What did he cry out to them? What was the answer?
23. In 18:27–28, where did they go? Whom did they attack? Was it successful?
24. In 18:29–31, what did Dan do with their new home? What become of Micah’s idol while the tabernacle dwelled in Shiloh?

Interpretation

25. Should we consider “success” to be a sign of God’s approval for what we do? How do we know what God approves in our daily lives and careers? Does the gospel call us to focus on visible results or on something else when we serve? Do results matter?

Application

26. Are there parts of your life where you are tempted to think that you have “arrived” or have already found all the success you need in that part of life? What parts of your daily walk with God might you change this week to remain humble in these areas of life?
27. How might you use these chapters to share the gospel with an unbeliever?